

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: **Hiroshi HASHIMOTO et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **Herewith**

For: **VEHICLE CONTROL SYSTEM**

Attorney Docket No.: **SIW-023**

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as follows.

1. (Amended) A vehicle control system comprising a plurality of control devices which form a plurality of subsystems connected to respective controlled objects and a cooperative control device which cooperatively operates said plurality of control devices through a communication line, wherein

each of said plurality of control devices comprises an input/output control device for conducting input and output processing for the signals sent and received between said cooperative control device and said controlled objects; and

said cooperative control device comprises a control calculation device for calculating control signals which control operation of said plurality of control devices and said controlled objects based on the received signals that have been received from said plurality of control devices.

3. (Amended) A vehicle control system according to claim 1, wherein

said plurality of control devices provides an autonomous control device which controls the operations of said controlled objects independently from said cooperative control device during the occurrence of an abnormality between said communication systems and said cooperative control devices or said cooperative control device.

4. (Amended) A vehicle control system comprising a plurality of control devices which form a plurality of subsystems connected to respective controlled objects and a cooperative control device which cooperatively operates said plurality of control devices through a communication line, wherein the vehicle control system further comprises:

a priority assigning device which assigns a priority to data sent and received via said communication line;

a plurality of FIFO storage devices which temporarily store said data after being classified depending on said priority; and

a data sending device which sends said data according to its priority from said FIFO storage device which stores said data having a high priority.

REMARKS

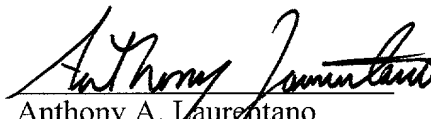
Preliminary to examination of this application, please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as set forth above. This amendment attends to minor formal matters by removing multiple dependencies and correcting grammar, and is not related to issues of patentability. Support for the amendment to the claim can be found throughout the specification, Figures and claims as originally filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments introduce no new matter. Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the proposed amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 21, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as follows:

1. A vehicle control system comprising a plurality of control devices which forms a plurality of subsystems connected to respective controlled objects and a cooperative control device which cooperatively operates said plurality of control devices through a communication line, wherein

each of said plurality of control devices comprises an input/output control device for conducting input and output processing for the signals sent and received between said cooperative control devices and said controlled objects; and

said cooperative control device comprises a control calculation device for calculating control signals which control operations of said plurality of control devices and said controlled objects based on the received signals that have been received from said plurality of control devices.

3. A vehicle control system according to ~~either claim 1 or~~ claim 1, wherein

said plurality of control devices provides an autonomous control device which controls the operations of said controlled objects independently from said cooperative control device during the occurrence of an abnormality between said communication systems and said cooperative control devices or said cooperative control device.

4. A vehicle control system comprising a plurality of control devices which forms a plurality of subsystems connected to respective controlled objects and a cooperative control device which cooperatively operates said plurality of control devices through a communication line, wherein the vehicle control system further comprises:

a priority assigning device which assigns a priority to ~~the~~ data sent and received via said communication lines;

a plurality of FIFO storage devices which temporarily store said data after being classified depending on said priority; and

a data sending device which sends said data according to its priority from said FIFO storage device which stores said data having a high priority.